Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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R 171630 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7874
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 1381

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: ALLEGED PURCHASE OF BOEING 707 S BY RHODESIA

- 1. LAST TWO DAYS FOREIGN NEWS BROADCASTS AND LOCAL PRESS HAVE DISCUSSED PURCHASE OF THREE BOEING 707-720 S BY RHODESIA. LISBON PRESS NOTES RUMORS THAT PLANES ACQUIRED FROM LUFTHANSA (DENIED BY LUFTHANSA). BBC REPORTS REACHING LISBON INDICATE AIRCRAFT ORIGINALLY SOLD BY BOEING TO EASTERN AIRLINES 1960, REPURCHASED BY BOEING 1970 AND SOLD TO NOW DEFUNCT FIRM CAL- AIR AND THENCE TO LIECHTENSTEIN FIRM WHICH ALLEGEDLY WAS SUPPLIER TO RHODESIA.
- 2. ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES HERE THE THREE BOEINGS TRANSITED LISBON LAST WEEK ENROUTE SALISBURY AND ARE NOW PARKED ON APRON AT SALISBURY. FONMIN AND SENIOR GOP OFFICIAL HAVE SAID PRIVATELY THAT IF THREE AIRCRAFT CAME THROUGH LISBON WITH PROPER REGISTRATION, GOP WOULD TAKE NO NOTE. HOWEVER THEY DENY GOP HAS ACCORDED LANDING RIGHTS TO RHODESIA, SCOTCHING STORIES CONFIDENTIAL

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OF SALISBURY- LUANDA- LISBON LINK. (WE UNDERSTAND BEFORE UDI, RHODESIAN AIRLINES FLEW NORTH THROUGH EAST AFRICA, SERVICE THROUGH LISBON THUS FITS NO HISTORIC PATTERN).

- 3. FURTHERMORE, GOP OFFICIALS SAID PORTUGAL RECOGNIZES ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OF UK IN CONNECTION EXTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING RHODESIA. THEY SAID GOP COULD NOT CONCLUDE AGREEMENT FOR AIRLINE ROUTE SALISBURY- LUANDALISBON.
- 4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, GOP DISPATCHED APRIL 14 SENIOR OVERSEAS MINISTRY OFFICIAL, OFTEN USED AS TROUBLE-SHOOTER IN MATTERS AFFECTING RHODESIA, TO MOZAMBIQUE.
- 5. COMMENT: FROM OUR KNOWLEDGE OF PASSENGER LOAD FACTORS BETWEEN LUANDA AND LISBON VIA TAP, WE STRONGLY DOUBT TRAFFIC COULD BEAR ADDITION OF RHODESIAN AIRWAYS 707 S.
 POST

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, RH To: CAPE TOWN

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LONDON

LOURENCO MARQUES

LUANDA **PRETORIA**

SECSTATE WASHDC

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